

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07

OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05 /072 W
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R 161216Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5924

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 1687

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OTRA IT YO

SUBJ: ITALIAN DIPLOMAT ON GIOLITTI TRIP TO US

1. ITALIAN FIRST SECRETARY ACCREDITED BELGRADE, WHO IS MEMBER OF MANCINI FACTION IN CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF ITALIAN SOCIALIST PARTY, MET LAST NIGHT FOR DINNER WITH EMBOFF AND DISCUSSION SOON TURNED TOWARD AFTERMATH OF RECENT SOCIALIST PARTY CONGRESS.

2. LEARNING THAT EMBOFF WAS SOON TO BE IN UNITED STATES, THE ITALIAN WENT ON AT LENGTH ABOUT PLANNED TRIP OF GIOLITTI TO US SCHEDULED FOR EARLY MAY. ACCORDING TO ITALIAN DIPLOMAT, GIOLITTI GOING TO NEW YORK AND BOSTON AND HAS SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS IN BOTH CITIES. HE SAID HE THOUGHT ONE ENGAGEMENT WAS IN CONNECTION WITH COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS. HE THEN ASKED ON A CONFIDENTIAL BASIS IF THERE WAS A WAY THAT GIOLITTI COULD GET TO SEE SOME PEOPLE IN WASHINGTON AND EMPHASIZED THAT THIS HAD TO BE DONE IN THE RIGHT WAY. EMBOFF SAID HE AT LEAST WOULD RAISE THE QUESTION WITH APPROPRIATE PEOPLE. ITALIAN SAID HE FELT A GREEN LIGHT WOULD BE VERY IMPORTANT BEFORE ANY FORMAL REQUESTS WERE MADE THROUGH ITALIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON OR FOREIGN MINISTRY IN ROME.

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3. THROUGHOUT EVENING DISCUSSION, DURING WHICH ITALIAN

WENT ON AT LENGTH ABOUT PERILOUS STATE OF ITALIAN ECONOMY AND DOMESTIC POLITICAL UNCERTAINTY, HE MADE A STRONG PITCH FOR US ECONOMIC SUPPORT FOR THE ITALIAN ECONOMY AND THEN WENT SO FAR AS TO SUGGEST THAT THE US SUPPORT THE SOCIALISTS FINANCIALLY.

4. COMMENT: WHILE THIS IS NOT OUR BAILIWICK, THE EMBASSY HAS HAD GOOD CONTACTS WITH THIS ITALIAN OFFICIAL IN THE PAST. HE MAY BE ENGAGED IN SOME PERSONAL POLITICAL APPLE POLISHING, BUT HE IS A SERIOUS-MINDED CHAP WHOSE COMMENTARY ON ITALO-YUGOSLAV RELATIONS HAS BEEN EXTREMELY RELIABLE. SILBERMAN

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